

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A method of blocking a stain on a substrate to be painted, the method comprising the steps of:  
    contacting a stained portion of the substrate with a dry film layer, said stained portion comprising a mark, discoloration, or deposit;  
    applying pressure to the dry film layer to cause the dry film layer to adhere to the stained portion of the substrate and to at least a portion of the substrate adjacent the stain; and  
    subsequently coating the substrate and the dry film layer with one or ~~40~~ more liquid coating layers.
2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer is provided on a release layer, and wherein the pressure applied to the dry film layer is provided through the release layer.
3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer is provided with an adhesive layer that assists in adhering the dry film layer to the stained portion of the substrate and to the portion of the substrate adjacent the stain.
4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein substantially all of the substrate is coated with the one or more liquid coating layers.
5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is substantially vertical.
6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a painted wall.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastered wall.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises one or more of: a plastered wall, wallboard, particle board, wood, a wood-composite, concrete, or wallpaper.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a visible mark caused by one or more of: ink, crayon, lipstick, grease pencil, colored marker, smoke, water, or tannin.

10. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is hydrophilic.

11. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is lipophilic and would inhibit adhesion of an aqueous coating composition to the stained portion of the substrate.

12. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a food residue.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain resides on the surface of the substrate.

14. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain resides on the surface of a paint layer provided on the substrate.

15. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain resides within a paint layer provided on the substrate.

16. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises one

or more of: a dye, a conjugated organic compound, an aromatic color body, or a wood knot.

17. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is soluble in water or an organic solvent.

18. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a clear or unpigmented oily or lipophilic substance that is not readily visible.

19. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain comprises one or more of: mineral oil, petrolatum, or wax.

20. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer prevents migration of the stain to the subsequently applied one or more liquid coating layers.

21. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer prevents the subsequently applied one or more liquid coating layers from dissolving the stain.

Claims 22-46 (canceled)

47. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pressure is applied by a roller.

48. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the pressure is applied by a spatula or other blade applicator.

49. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the pressure is applied by hand.

50. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the pressure is applied uniformly across the surface of the dry film layer.

Claims 51-69 (canceled)

70. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry film layer is provided with one or more feathered edges.

Claims 71-72 (canceled)